



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

promise of its final completion and of his return to this country, he died suddenly of pneumonia at Rome on Jan. 6, 1882, and was buried in the new Protestant cemetery outside the city's walls.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

IN the death of RALPH WALDO EMERSON the Academy has lost a member rarely seen perhaps at its meetings, and not owing his fame to any achievements in the fields in which its discussions are usually engaged, yet from his youth upwards accustomed to follow with a lively and sympathetic interest the triumphant progress of modern science, and always glad of an opportunity to see and to converse with scientific men. "I love facts," he said, "and hate lubricity and people of vague perceptions."

The earliest of his "lectures," read before the Mechanics' Institute in Boston, had for its subject "Water," and it was followed by one upon "The Relations of Man to the Globe." Afterwards he read an essay, entitled "The Naturalist," before the Boston Society of Natural History. His early note-books show many traces of his studies of natural science, and in the last conversation I had with him, a short time before his death, he recurred to what was always a favorite theme, the astonishing advance of scientific discovery during his lifetime. In the series of lectures on the Natural History of the Intellect, first given, I believe, in England in 1848, and repeated, with modifications and additions, in the University Course at Harvard College in 1870, the central idea was that mind is matter come to self-consciousness, so that in the shapes and the laws of the physical world we may trace, as in cipher, the genesis of thought.

Ralph Waldo Emerson was the fourth child and third son of the Rev. William Emerson, minister of the First Church in Boston, and Ruth Haskins. He was born in Boston, May 25, 1803, in the old parsonage in Summer Street, and was the descendant of several lines of faithful ministers, going back to the first settlement of the country; of Peter Bulkeley, one of the first settlers of Concord, Mass., and its first minister; of Daniel Bliss, prominent in Whitfield's "revival"; of the Moodys, famous preachers of Portsmouth and York, and one of them a predecessor of William Emerson in the First Church in Boston. His grandfather, the Rev. William Emerson, of Concord, of revolutionary memory, was the builder of the "Old Manse," and from its windows witnessed the fight at the bridge. Directly afterwards he joined the army as chaplain, and died in the service.

Ralph, as our Associate was called in his boyhood, did not distinguish himself in scholarship at school or college, but from very early years he was a diligent reader of English poetry, and showed much facility in versification. He entered Harvard College in 1817, and was graduated in 1821, receiving while there two Bowdoin prizes for dissertations and a Boylston prize for declamation, and he was chosen class poet. On leaving college he kept school, as his father and his grandfather had done before him, until he could find opportunity to follow the ancestral vocation of preaching. In 1826 he was "approved to preach" by the Middlesex Association of Ministers, and in 1829 he was ordained at the Second Church in Boston as colleague of Rev. Henry Ware, Jr. Finding that the lecturer's desk would be more convenient for his purposes than the pulpit, he severed his formal connection with the church in the autumn of 1832, but continued all his life long a diligent seeker after and expounder of truth as applied to the conduct of life.

It would be out of place here to undertake to follow his fortunes in detail, or to attempt to determine his place as a moralist or as a man of letters. A full account of the occurrences of his life and a discriminating analysis of his philosophy may be found in the excellent work of the Rev. G. W. Cooke. (Boston: J. R. Osgood & Co., 1881.) Here it may be sufficient to recount some of the more prominent facts of his history.

In 1831-2 Mr. Emerson travelled in Europe, making acquaintance with many persons in England, particularly with Carlyle, whose first book, "*Sartor Resartus*," made its first appearance, in book form, in this country, with a preface by Emerson. In 1847-8 he again went to England, and there lectured extensively, being received with cordiality and with a lively interest by all classes of people. After his return home, his lecturing tours, which had been confined to New England and the cities of New York and Philadelphia, were extended to the West, and in 1871 he visited California.

In the summer of 1872 his house was partly burned, and although, by the prompt assistance of his friends and neighbors, his manuscripts and books were removed almost without injury, he received from this disturbance of his home a shock from which he never entirely recovered. His physical health, which, in spite of some delicacy of constitution, had been, since his early manhood, upon the whole remarkably good, continued unabated, but his command of words failed, and his mind lost its spring. Henceforth he wrote little or nothing, and although upon special invitation he would occasionally read one of his old lec-

tures, he took but little part in the selection or preparation of it. His literary activity during this period was mostly confined to a revision of his poems for a new edition, and to a partial co-operation in the publication of a few essays written long before. The entire sanity of his intellect and the beautiful serenity of his disposition were untouched, but his memory, particularly of words, faded so as to render conversation a burden to him. At the funeral of Mr. Longfellow, a few weeks before his own death, it was remarked that he forgot the names of familiar acquaintances. A cold, taken a short time afterwards, passed into pneumonia, of which he died April 27, 1882, a few weeks short of his 79th birthday.

Mr. Emerson delivered the annual oration before the Φ . B. K. Society in 1837 and in 1867. He received the degree of LL.D. from Harvard College in 1867, and was chosen Overseer in the same year. In 1878 he was chosen Foreign Associate in the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences of the Institute of France, to fill the place left vacant by the death of Mr. J. L. Motley.

The following is a list of his principal published works:—*Nature*, 1836; Φ . B. K. Oration, 1837; *Essays*, first series, 1841; *Address on the Anniversary of Emancipation in the West Indies*, 1844; *Essays*, second series, 1844; *Poems*, 1847; *Miscellanies*, 1849; *Representative Men*, 1850; *Memoir of Margaret Fuller*, 1852; *English Traits*, 1856; *Conduct of Life*, 1860; *May-day and other Poems*, 1867; *Society and Solitude*, 1870; *Letters and Social Aims*, 1875; *Fortune of the Republic*, 1878.

THOMAS POTTS JAMES.

THOMAS POTTS JAMES died, at his residence in Cambridge, Feb. 22, 1882, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. He had been a Fellow of the Academy for only four years, most of his life having been spent in Philadelphia, in the neighborhood of which city he was born on the 1st of September, 1803. His paternal and maternal ancestors were notable persons among the earlier settlers of Pennsylvania. For forty years he was engaged in business in Philadelphia as a wholesale druggist, on the relinquishment of which he removed to Cambridge, bringing his wife and their four children to her paternal home. From his youth he was more or less devoted to botany; but of late years, having more leisure for the indulgence of his taste, and wishing to be more than an amateur, he devoted himself exclusively and most sedulously to bryology, in which he became a